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A/S-19/25
23 June 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Nineteenth special session

AGENDA OF THE NINETEENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 June 1997

1. Opening of the session by the Chairman of the delegation of Malaysia.

2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation.

3. Credentials of representatives to the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

4. Election of the President.

5. Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development.*

6. Organization of the session.

7. Adoption of the agenda.

8. Overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

9. Adoption of the final document(s).

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* In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 50/113, para. 4, and 51/181, para. 2.

97-16945 (E) 230697

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26 June 1997

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23-27 June 1997
Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Letter dated 24 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the written statement of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Mr. Kim Yong Sam of south Korea on 23 June 1997 at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly.

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated to all representatives of the plenary meeting as a document of the special session under agenda item 8.

(Signed) Kim Hong U
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement by the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in exercise of the right of reply

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea responds as follows to the remarks by Mr. Kim Yong Sam of south Korea at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly on 23 June 1997.

The demilitarized zone of the Korean peninsula is a symbol of the tragic division of the nation; it is not a treasure to be proud of at the international forum.

Nevertheless, Mr. Kim Yong Sam asserted in his statement that the north and south of Korea should cooperate with each other to protect and preserve the natural environment of the demilitarized zone.

This hypocritical and illogical assertion only proves of its own accord his true colour as a splittist and traitor of the nation. Talking about environmental protection in the demilitarized zone reveals the intention of traitor Kim Yong Sam to perpetuate the division of the country.

The environment in the demilitarized zone has been deteriorating ever since the south Korean authorities built the concrete wall in the southern part of the zone, dividing the territory of Korea and damaging the ecological system of the Korean peninsula.

Therefore, the south Korean authorities should, before anything else, demolish the concrete wall rather than making a crafty attempt to insult the nation and divert world opinion elsewhere by clamouring about environmental protection of the demilitarized zone.

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Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Letter dated 25 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In its capacity as Chairman of the States members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), South Africa has the honour to request that the attached declaration be circulated as a document of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

This declaration by the Ministers of SADC attending the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly represents a contribution towards the overall review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly as this relates to the 12 States members of SADC.

The States constituting the membership of SADC are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(Signed) Khiphusizi J. JELE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration by the Ministers of the Southern African Development Community attending the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1997

We, the Ministers of the Southern African Development Community attending the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992,

Reiterating that the eradication of poverty in our member States and efforts to halt environmental degradation are of paramount importance,

Concerned about the increasing degradation of the global environment as a result of unsustainable production and consumption patterns as well as lifestyles,

Concerned about atmospheric pollution and its impact on the global environment, natural resources, human health and small island developing States,

Recognizing the need to integrate social and economic development and environmental protection in all decision-making to ensure a better quality of life for present and future generations,

Noting the progress achieved in the framework of recent major United Nations conferences to promote international cooperation and consensus on development and through the provisions in the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Acknowledging the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility and other financial mechanisms,

Recognizing that global partnership and international cooperation for development are essential in achieving sustainable development, particularly through the creation of a more favourable international economic environment, and that North-South and South-South transfer of environmentally sound technologies is essential for sustainable development, and recognizing also that the fulfilment of the commitment to transfer to developing countries substantial new and additional financial resources to meet their sustainable development requirements has not materialized,

Concerned that while the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities for global environmental degradation has been accepted by all, the progress in the implementation of the commitments voluntarily undertaken at Rio de Janeiro by all countries has been disappointing,

Recognizing that while the responsibility for the implementation of Agenda 21 rests with national Governments, the efforts of developing countries have been hampered by the absence of adequate support and assistance from the international community,

Recognizing that loss of productivity in our drylands, with its resulting poverty and underdevelopment, continues to impact upon the poorest people in our region,

Concerned that the unsustainable exploitation of marine resources in the oceans of the developed countries is obliging them to seek exploitation rights in the waters of the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans,

Recognizing that water is southern Africa's most limiting natural resource,

HEREBY DECLARE THAT WE:

- Resolve to strive to eradicate poverty as an indispensable condition for sustainable development;

- State that the eradication of poverty, supported by greater equity in income distribution and human resource development, remain major challenges, especially in our member States;

- Believe that solving the basic needs of the poor, particularly food security and energy needs, would reduce problems such as deforestation and land degradation and would relieve pressure on water resources;

- Urge that the special situation and needs of the member States should be given special priority;

- Are convinced of the importance of pursuing policies of sustainable development and of managing the natural resource base in a sustainable manner;

- Call upon the developed countries to address urgently the environmental degradation caused by their unsustainable production and consumption patterns;

- Urge the developed countries to meet their commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions below the 1990 level by 2005 and to reach agreement on legally binding instruments at the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held at Kyoto, Japan, and to assist the small island developing States in implementing their action plans;

- Emphasize that North-South technology transfer and cooperation to our region should be analysed and increased, and stress that South-South technology transfer and cooperation should be promoted;

- Urge the developed countries to provide additional and predictable financial resources to meet their commitments under Agenda 21 and to

achieve the target of 0.7 per cent gross national product as official development assistance immediately, and also to ensure that within that target 0.15 per cent of gross national product is earmarked for the least developed countries, and welcome the foreign direct investment from the private and public sectors in our region;

- State that the period of five years since the 1992 Conference at Rio de Janeiro has indicated progress in some areas, but also recognize that implementation remains a great problem, especially in Africa. We reiterate the need for enhanced resources and capacity-building programmes by the United Nations system to contribute effectively to the implementation of Agenda 21;

- Reiterate our commitment to combat desertification at local, national and regional levels, and urge the international community to attach similar importance and urgency to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa as to the other recent United Nations conventions;

- Call upon the international community to support the region in the development and implementation of sustainable water management systems for the benefit of the member States;

- Urge the international community to assist member States in the management of marine ecosystems and the protection of marine resources against over-exploitation;

- As members of the Southern African Development Community therefore rededicate our commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the provisions of Agenda 21.

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Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21

Note verbale dated 19 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit the attached letter from Mr. Imata Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Chairman of the South Pacific Forum.

The Permanent Representative would request that the attached letter be disseminated as a United Nations document of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly under agenda item 8.

ANNEX

President
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

June 17, 1997

Excellency,

I have the honor to write to you in my capacity as Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, and in my capacity as host for the Second Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific.

I have been requested by the countries and territories represented at that meeting to transmit the Majuro Declaration through you to the Member States of the United Nations, and to request that the Declaration be brought to the attention of the 19th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I therefore have the honor to attach herewith the text of the Majuro Declaration and the letter of transmittal from the Chairman of the Conference, and to respectfully request that this be issued as an official United Nations document under the appropriate agenda items.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Imata Kabua
President

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary General
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017

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APPENDIX

The *Second* Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific

Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands
10 - 13 June 1997

His Excellency President Imata Kabua
Office of the President
Majuro
Republic of Marshall Islands

13 June 1997

Dear Mr President,

I have the honour to refer to the Second Multilateral High-Level Conference on the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks in the central and western Pacific held at Majuro from 10 - 13 June 1997.

Your Excellency will recall that the Forum heads of Government at the 27th South Pacific Forum had called for such a Conference to be convened and endorsed the initiative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to convene a ministerial meeting to help advance this process. On 13 June 1997, the Conference adopted the Majuro Declaration and requested me, in my capacity as Chairman of the Conference, to transmit the text of the declaration to you in your capacity as Chairman of the South Pacific Forum.

I therefore have the honour to attach herewith the Majuro Declaration. I would respectfully draw your Excellency's attention to operative paragraph 12 of the Declaration by which the Conference requested the Government of the Marshall Islands, as host of the Conference and Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, to bring the Declaration to the attention of the 19th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be convened in new York in June 1997 to review the implementation of Agenda 21.

I remain, Mr President,

Yours sincerely,

Satya N. Nandan
Chairman of the Conference

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ATTACHMENT

SECOND MULTILATERAL HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH STOCKS IN THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
10-13 June 1997

MAJURO DECLARATION

The States, territories and fishing entities represented by Ministers and senior officials at the Second Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific meeting at Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, from 10-13 June 1997,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention") and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 4 August 1995 ("the Implementing Agreement"),

Recalling also that the Multilateral High Level Conference on South Pacific Tuna Fisheries, held at Honiara, Solomon Islands, from 5-9 December 1994, reached a common understanding on the need for sustainable development of the tuna resources of the region, the importance of fishing responsibly in the region, the importance of effective enforcement in the conservation and management of tuna stocks and the need for effective cooperation between coastal States and territories and distant water fishing nations,

Recalling further that South Pacific Forum Leaders at the 26th South Pacific Forum held at Madang, Papua New Guinea in 1995 considered that comprehensive regional fisheries management arrangements and a structure consistent with the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks should be developed as a matter of urgency and should be based on a precautionary approach to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the region's tuna resources,

Recalling also that South Pacific Forum Leaders at the 27th South Pacific Forum held at Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, from 3-5 September 1996 called upon the Forum Fisheries Committee to continue with urgency its development of comprehensive arrangements for the sustainable management of the region's fisheries across the full geographical range of the stocks, including the high seas, and endorsed the initiative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to convene a ministerial meeting to help advance this process,

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Bearing in mind the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of 1992, in particular Agenda 21, and the importance placed by the international community on sustainable utilization of living marine resources,

Determined to ensure the effective conservation and management and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks of the western and central Pacific throughout the range of their distribution,

Conscious of the need to avoid adverse impacts on the marine environment of the region, preserve its biodiversity, maintain the integrity of the marine ecosystem and minimize the risk of long term or irreversible effects of fishing operations,

Mindful of the importance of the highly migratory fish stocks of the western and central Pacific to the sustainable development and prosperity of developing States and territories in the region,

Recognizing the sovereign rights of coastal States to explore and exploit, and their duty to conserve and manage the living marine resources within their exclusive economic or fisheries zones and the right of States for their nationals to fish on the high seas in accordance with international law and their duty to take, or to cooperate with other States in taking, such measures as may be necessary for the conservation of the living resources of the high seas,

Recognizing further the need for special assistance for Pacific island developing States and territories to enable them to participate effectively in the conservation, management and sustainable use of the highly migratory fish stocks of the region,

Convinced of the urgent need to improve knowledge about the stocks and fisheries of the region and to develop a framework for the elaboration and implementation of conservation and management measures in the region,

1. ***Declare*** their commitment to establish a mechanism for the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks of the region in accordance with the Convention and the Implementing Agreement;

2. ***Decide*** to cooperate effectively in the conservation and management of highly migratory fish stocks of the region throughout their range in order to ensure their long-term sustainability, in accordance with the principles contained in the Convention and the Implementing Agreement, including through application of the precautionary approach widely;

3. ***Decide*** to ensure that the fishing activities in the region are conducted in a manner fully consistent with the respective rights, obligations and responsibilities of coastal States and territories and other States and fishing entities fishing on the high seas in the region under the Convention and the Implementing Agreement;

4. ***Declare*** their commitment to ensuring that conservation and management measures for highly migratory fish stocks in areas under national jurisdiction and those for the high seas are compatible;

5. ***Declare*** their commitment to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fisheries activities in accordance with annex 1 of the Implementing Agreement, as well as information from relevant research programmes;

6. ***Declare*** their commitment to cooperate in monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing activities in the region in pursuance of the objectives set out in paragraph 2;

7. ***Declare*** their commitment to provide financial, scientific and technical assistance to Pacific island developing States and territories to enhance their ability to conserve, manage and sustainably use the highly migratory fish stocks of the region;

8. ***Decide*** to set an overall time-frame of three years from June 1997 in which to negotiate and establish the mechanism referred to in paragraph 1;

9. ***Decide*** to hold further sessions of the Conference in 1998 and 1999 to address, inter alia, the following matters:

(a) species and stocks to be covered by the arrangement;

(b) geographical area to be covered;

(c) membership and participation by observers;

(d) mechanisms for decision making and procedures for the settlement of disputes;

(e) mechanisms for the collection and exchange of fisheries data, scientific research and stock assessment;

(f) determination of conservation and management measures, including the application of the precautionary approach;

(g) relationship with other regional and global fisheries organizations and arrangements;

(h) procedures for monitoring, control, surveillance and enforcement; and

(i) financial and administrative arrangements;

10. ***Decide also*** to hold consultations on certain technical matters during the intersessional period;

11. ***Request*** the Chairman of the Conference to transmit this Declaration to the Chairman of the South Pacific Forum;

12. ***Further request*** the Government of the Marshall Islands, as host of the Conference and Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, to bring this Declaration to the

attention of the 19th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to be convened in New York in June 1997 to review the implementation of Agenda 21;

13. Express their appreciation to the Government of the Marshall Islands for hosting the Conference.

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands
13 June 1997